

PATENT  
450100-02864REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 10-11 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. No changes have been made to the claims, as presented herein.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edatsune (U.S. Patent 5,802,488) in view of Imagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,553,764). The present claims recite "said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words." (Claim 1) The Examiner asserts this limitation is met by Edatsune's Figures 2B and 3A and Column 11, lines 8-32 and 47-59) Applicants contend that Edatsune's working example 2 and working example 3 are pertinent to the present discussion.

In working example 2, Edatsune discloses that the coefficients for recognizable phrases for the speech recognition unit are controlled by the time of day. (Column 9, lines 16-38) For example, in the morning it is more likely to hear the words "good morning" than it is to hear "good evening" and so these words are weighted accordingly. Accordingly, Edatsune does not disclose weighting words in accordance with the growth state of the robot as recited in the

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present claims, but rather in accordance with the time of day.

Moreover, in working example 3, Edatsune discloses that the response content for the speech synthesis unit is controlled by the level. The response content is selected from the phrases for the speech recognition unit. Applicants concede that this level corresponds to the present invention's growth state. However, Edatsune does not disclose that the coefficients for recognizable phrases are controlled by this level. As evidenced by Figure 3A, Edatsune's speech recognition unit 5 does not have a relational input from the response content level generation unit 31. Rather, Edatsune discloses that the response content changes with the clock time; not the speech recognition. For example, the toy may respond with "bow-wow" on the first day after purchase, and with "good morning" on the second day of purchase. Hence, Edatsune does not meet the recited limitation "speech recognition is performed using the weighted words" as required in the present claims.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Edatsune and Imagawa fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are anticipated for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,  
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

Darren M. Simon  
Reg. No. 47,946  
(212) 588-0800